**IN THE CLAIMS**:

1. (Currently amended) A self-hardening glass carbomer composition obtainable by subsequently treating a fluorosilicate glass powder with:

(a) a poly(dialkylsiloxane) having terminal hydroxyl groups, wherein the alkyl groups contain 1 to 4 carbon atoms~~,~~;

(b) an aqueous acid solution~~,~~; and

(c) separating the treated fluorosilicate glass powder from the aqueous acid solution.

2. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the poly(dialkylsiloxane) is linear or cyclic.

3. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the alkyl groups of the poly(dialkylsiloxane) are methyl groups.

4. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the poly(dialkylsiloxane) has a kinematic viscosity in the range of about 1 to about 100,000 cSt at 25°C.

5. (Previously presented) The self-hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the particles of the fluorosilicate glass powder have an average size of about 0.5 to about 200μm.

6. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer coposition according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous acid solution comprises an inorganic acid or an organic acid.

7. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 6, wherein the organic acid is a polymer.

8. (Previously presented) The self hardening glass carbomer composition according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous acid solution has a pH in the range of 2 to 7.

9. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of a self hardening glass carbomer composition, wherein a fluorosilicate glass powder is subsequently treated with:

(a) a poly(dialkylsiloxane) having terminal hydroxyl groups, wherein the alkyl groups contain 1 to 4 carbon atoms~~,~~;

(b) an aqueous acid solution~~,~~; and

(c) separating the treated fluorosilicate glass powder from the aqueous acid solution.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A dental filling material prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) A dental bonding cement prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

13. (Previously presented) A bone cement prepared from the glass carbomer composition of claim 1.

14. (Previously presented) A bone replacement material prepared from the carbomer composition of claim 1.